

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC HONO HI

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 301486

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 23 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

NCNA ANNOUNCES NEW PRC RELEASE OF SENIOR CHINAT PRISONERS, INCLUDING 21 GENERALS, 15 COLS/LT-COLS, 36 KUOMINTANG OFFICIALS; SAYS ACTION COMPLETES FREEING ALL CHINAT MIL PRISONERS HOLDING POSITIONS ABOVE REGIMENTAL LEVEL AND ALL KUOMINTANG OFFICIALS WHO HELD OFFICE ABOVE COUNTY LEVEL--BUT ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER OTHER PRISONERS OF LOWER RANK STILL BEING HELD, AND DID NOT REVEAL TOTAL NUMBER FREED IN LATEST BATCH. NCNA ADDED THAT FREED PRISONERS HAVE AGREED TO STUDY HARD, UNCLASSIFIED

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REMOULD THEIR IDEOLOGY AND FOLLOW CCP. THEY WERE GIVEN CITIZENSHIP, POLITICAL RIGHTS, ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR JOBS, ACCOMMODATIONS AND ISSUED CLOTHES, POCKET MONEY AND WILL BE ALLOWED RETURN TAIWAN IF THEY WISH. NAMES

OF FREED OFFICERS/OFFICIALS GIVEN. REUTER (PEKING)
REPORTS OBSERVERS BELIEVE ACTION IS PROPAGANDA GESTURE
AIMED AT TAIWAN.

WANG HUNG-WEN, UNSEEN IN PEKING SINCE EARLY SUMMER,
PRESIDED OVER KANG SHENG MEMORIAL CEREMONY MONDAY. FOR
MONTHS SPECULATION WAS THAT WANG MAY HAVE SLIPPED IN PRC
HIERARCHY (WP).

REUTER'S GRIFFITHS, IN PEKING, REPORTS CORRESPONDENTS
INVITED TO PEKING UNIVERSITY 12/23 HEARD UNIVERSITY
OFFICIAL CHANG CHIH-LIANG ACCUSE EDUCATION MINISTER CHOU
JUNG-HSIN OF "VICIOUS SLANDER" AGAINST ORTHODOX MAOIST
LINE IN EDUCATION--BUT CHANG VOICED HOPE CHOU WILL REMOULD
HIMSELF. GRIFFITHS NOTES CHOU IS CHIEF TARGET OF MONTH-
OLD "BIG CHARACTER POSTER" CAMPAIGN IN PEKING
UNIVERSITIES, BEING ACCUSED, WITH TSINGHUA ACADEMY HEAD
LIU PING, OF "DEVIATING" FROM GPCR ETHICS AND CRITICIZING
QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CRITERIA FOR UNIVERSITY
ENTRANCE.

NCNA SAYS PRC HAS BUILT 40 DEEP-WATER BERTHS AT 9 MAJOR
SEAPORTS, EACH CAPABLE OF HARBORING VESSELS OF
10,000 TONS AND MORE (REUTER HK).

PRC SCIENTISTS HAVE MADE COUNTRY'S FIRST RUBIDIUM
ATOMIC CLOCK, ACCORDING NCNA. SAYS SHANGHAI RESEARCHERS
SPENT OVER FIVE YEARS DEVELOPING NEW PRECISION TIMEPIECE
FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK, WHICH MEASURES PASSAGE OF TIME
BY VIBRATIONS OF ATOMS (REUTER HK).

2. INDOCHINA/THAILAND

CODEL ARRIVES VIENTIANE FROM HAOII; HAD 2 DAYS "CONSTRUC-
TIVE, WORTHWHILE, AND STRAIGHTFORWARD" TALKS WITH NVN
OFFICIALS, ACCORDING REP MONTGOMERY. REP MCCLOSKEY
BELIEVES NVN WANTS SPEED UP NORMALIZATION PROCESS. NVIETS
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NOW CLEARLY EXPECT RECIPROCAL GESTURE IN LINE WITH FORD
STATEMENT AFTER ASIAN TRIP THAT US WILLING "RECIPROCATATE
GOODWILL," ESPECIALLY CONCERNING MIA QUESTION
(SOUTHERLAND, CSM). CODEL SAYS NVN INDICATED WILL
RELEASE MORE REMAINS US SERVICEMEN CODEL EXPECTED ARRIVE
BANGKOK TODAY (UPI, PHINQ);MET LAO GOVT OFFICIALS TO
DISCUSS MIAS IN LAOS (REUTER VIENTIANE).

"NHAN DAN" DECLARES NVN WILL DEFEND OFFSHORE ISLANDS,
INCLUDING THOSE CLAIMED BY PRC. EDITORIAL INDICATES
HANOI NO LONGER FEELS NEED CAUTION IN CONFRONTING PEKING,
ESPECIALLY WITH PRESUMED USSR BACKING (SUN).

COALITION 35 US CHURCH, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS SENDS 25 TONS MED EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING TO VN BY AIR, SEA. GROUP, CALLED "FRIENDSHIPMENT", SAYS IS FIRST TIME USG HAS GRANTED PERMISSION FOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO VN SINCE WAR ENDED (AIN, NYDN; UPI, PHINQ).

AP MEMBERS VOTE VN/CAMBODIA FALL TOP NEWS STORY OF S YR (CSM; PHINQ); MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT RANKED SIXTH (CSM).

SEVERAL "BIG" MINH ASSOCIATES TAKE SEATS IN NEW SVN POPULAR ASSY. FIRST SOVIET CARGO PLANE CARRYING FOOD, BASIC SUPPLIES, FROM HANOI ARRIVES VIENTIANE AS PART USSR AIRLIFT TO HELP LAO GOVT. THAI, CAMBODIAN FORCES EXCHANGE GUNFIRE ACROSS BORDER FOR 2ND TIME IN 2 DAYS (WP). LAST US REFUELING, COMBAT ACFT WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND, WITH UDORN TO CLOSE BY END JAN, KORAT BY END FEB (CSM).

3. TIMOR/INDONESIA

UNSC CALLS UNANIMOUSLY FOR WITHDRAWAL INDO FORCES FROM TIMOR (WP; AP, SUN; PHINQ; TELTSCH, NYT); ALSO WANTS RESPECT FOR COLONY'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PEOPLE, PEACEFUL SOLUTION, DECOLONIZATION (PHINQ; TELTSCH). SEVERAL UNSC MEMBERS BELIEVE ACTION MAY PERSUADE GOI MAKE SOME CONCESSION, SUCH AS WITHDRAWING TROOPS; SOME WANT SECGEN SPECIAL REP SENT TO PREVENT FURTHER BLOODSHED. PRC RECOGNIZED UNCLASSIFIED

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FRETILIN, INSISTS TIMORESE HAVE CHOSEN INDEPENDENCE, WANTS UN REP SOLELY SUPERVISE INDO TROOP WITHDRAWAL, RATHER THAN TRY DETERMINE POPULATION WISHES (TELTSCH).

4. AUSTRALIA

FRASER SWORN IN AS NEW PM (CSM). JOC'S STOVE AT SYDNEY SEES ECONOMY ON CONSERVATIVE TRACK, THOUGH BRIEF WHITLAM ERA LEFT MARK. SEES NO DISMANTLING BY FRASER OF POSITIVE RESULTS LABOR INITIATIVES, NO CHANCE NEW GOVT WILL QUICKLY CURE ECON ILLS OF INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, SLUGGISH PRODUCTION. GOVT WILL ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT; TREASURY HOPES FOR LIFT PRIVATE CONSUMPTION.

5. JAPAN

MITI ACCEPTS APPLICATION 6 MAJOR STEEL FIRMS FOR PERMISSION FORM EXPORT CARTEL TO REGULATE STEEL SHIPMENTS TO COMMART, EXPECTS APPROVE PLAN (REUTER NYT, SUN; WP; JOC). LEADERS BIGGEST LABOR FEDERATION APPROVE PROGRAM TO DEMAND PAY RAISES AVERAGING 20 PCT NEXT SPRING (CULLISON,

JOC). AVERAGE COST LIVING INCREASED 10.8 PCT DURING 1975 FOR TOKYO FAMILY (AP, PHINQ). PARLIAMENT PASSES BILL TO RAISE POSTAL RATES MUCH AS 150 PCT (REUTER, WP).

ECON COUNCIL RECOMMENDS 5-YR PLAN SWITCHING FROM GROWTH-ORIENTED EXPANSION TO WELFARE ECONOMY, LOWERING REAL GROWTH RATE FROM 9 PCT TO 6 PCT. PROGRAM REPLACES

1973-77 PLAN, NOW CONSIDERED UNREALISTIC DUE OIL PRICE HIKES (REUTER, NYT; CULLISON, JOC).

GMC GAINSFULL CONTROL ISUZU, 6TH LARGEST AUTO MAKER IN JAPAN, HOPES BRING UP TO 3RD PLACE; ALSO PLANS LINK BETWEEN ISUZU, TOYO KOGYO ROTORY ENGINE FIRM (WP). MINTRANSPORT ADVISES 6 MAJOR SHIP LINES SERVING JAPAN-US PAC SW CONTAINER ROUTES PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE REFUSAL BY US FEDL MARITIME COMM AGAIN TO EXTEND PERMISSION FOR OPERATION SPACE CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS (JOC).

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6. GENERAL

DOZEN SENS, WIVES WILL TAKE OFF FOR 18-DAY TOUR OF SOUTH SEAS, INCLUDING HAWAII, SAIPAN, PAPEETE, AUSTRALIA, NZ. CODEL WILL BE HEADED BY HOLLINGS, GRIFFIN; EXPECTED INCLUDE BAKER, RIBICOFF, DURKIN, POSSIBLY BROOKE, CULVER, MORGAN. TRIP WILL COST UP TO 35,000 DOLS. MOST MEMBERS HOLD MAJOR LEGISLATIVE POSTS INVOLVING AREA TO BE VISITED. MANSFIELD SAYS KEY PURPOSE ENABLE SENS TALK WITH HIGH AUSSIE, NZ OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THEIR POSITION ON DIEGO GARCIA BASE (RICH, WP).

ASIAN EDITION WSJ TO BE LAUNCHED MID-76, PRINTED IN HK, DISTRIBUTED BY AIR TO MAJOR CITIES IN ASIA, AUSTRALIA (WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

MCGRORY (WSTAR 12/22) RECALLS BACH MAI HOSPITAL BOMBING, NOTES PRIVATE, UNOFFICIAL MAKING OF AMENDS BY SHIPMENT MED EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING. REVIEWS RECENT MIA GESTURE BY NVN. CONCLUDES WAR GOES ON DIPLOMATICALLY AS US CONTINUES EXPRESS DISPLEASURE WITH NVN. BELIEVES LIFTING TRADE EMBARGO COULD LEAD TO REGULAR SEARCH, RESOLUTION MIA DIFFICULTY, BUT "CONCESSION-DELIVERY" PATTERN SEEMS ONLY PROSPECT. NOTES PRES ASKED CODEL VISITING HANOI TRY RETRIEVE BODIES 2 MARINES KIA IN SAIGON'S LAST HRS BECAUSE "LOST IN;MY ADMINISTRATION." SEES ADMIN UNWILLING DECLARE UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY FOR RESISTERS, ADMIT

VIETS WON WAR -- SO UNFINISHED BUSINESS DRAGS ON.

NYT NOTES PL SEIZURE FULL POWER ENDS MONARCHY, PUTS PRC
ON DEFENSIVE IN LAOS. SEES HOLLOWNESS PL PLEDGES
SELF-EVIDENT; WONDERS IF LENDING SELVES TO OLD NVN
AMBITION UNITE ALL INDOCHINA UNDER HANOI CONTROL.
BELIEVES US CAN'T DISREGARD PRESENCE HUNDREDS
USSR TECHNICIANS IN LAOS; WITH PRC ADVISERS IN CAMBODIA,
SUGGESTS SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY AND PERHAPS TRADITIONAL
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NVN SUSPICION OF CHINA PLAYED ROLE IN UNEXPECTED
COMMUNIST MOVE IN LAOS.

8. CHINA

CHARLES YOST (SUN)SAYS US FOPOL DISPLAYING CREEPING
PARALYSIS BROUGHT ON BY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. CITES
LACK OF PROGRESS ON NORMALIZATION WITH PRC AS EXAMPLE
PROBABLY DUE TO FEAR OF ATTACK FROM REAGAN.

ROSS MUNRO (REPRINTED IN CSM) DESCRIBES CHINESE
STAFF AT BRITISH EMBASSY UNHAPPINESS OVER "JACK AND THE
BEANSTALK" GIANT WEARING CHINESE PADDED TROUSER AND JACKET
IN HOLIDAY PLAY. CITES OTHER CHINESE STAFF SENSITIVITY
IN EAST-WEST "HUMOR GAP."

SUN'S ISAACS, IN HK, NOTES EMPHASIS IN PRINCIPAL SPEECH
AT KANG SHENG CEREMONIES, DELIVERED BY YEH CHIEN-YING, WAS
DECIDELY MODERATE IN TONE, STRESSING NOT IDEOLOGICAL
PURITY BUT DEVELOPMENT DRIVE TO "BUILD CHINA INTO A
POWERFUL MODERN SOCIALIST STATE." SAYS TENOR OF SPEECH
SUGGESTED WANG HUNG-WEN'S REAPPEARANCE IS NOT RESURGENCE
OF RADICAL FACTION WITH WHICH HE IS ASSOCIATED, BUT ACT
OF SUBMISSION TO MODERATES NOW CONTROLLING PRC.

CSM'S MISHRA, IN CALCUTTA, SAYS SOUTH ASIA TENSIONS
HAVE BEEN RAISED BY RECENT BANGLADESH EVENTS, NUMBER
OF WHICH SEEM TO SHOW GROWING PRC-BANGLADESH LINK.
AMONG DEVELOPMENTS CONSIDERED OMINOUS SIGNALS FOR INDIA
IS DACCA ARRIVAL OF ADVANCE TEAM OF PRC DIPLOMATIC
PERSONNEL, BUT ALSO INCLUDING GUERRILLA WARFARE EXPERTS.
ALSO, NEW BANGLADESH GOVT HAS CONCLUDED SERIES OF 13
AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES WITHIN MONTH OF
COMING TO POWER; WHILE TERMS NOT MADE PUBLIC, IS SPECULATED
THEY WILL STRENGTHEN INTERESTS OF PRC, US, RATHER THAN
OF INDIA, SOVIET.

9. PHILIPPINES

SOUTHERLAND (CSM) NOTES FIL PERCEPTION OF US HAS SOBERED,
MATURED SINCE WW II, BUT US STILL REMAINS LAND OF PROMISE

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TO MANY FILS, WHILE AMCITS OFTEN FEEL MORE WELCOME HERE THAN
IN ANY OTHER ASIAN COUNTRY. BELIEVES KEY LINK IS ENGLISH,
THOUGH INTELLECTUALS STRESS NEED PURSUE NATL IDENTITY
SEPARATE FROM SPANISH, US PAST. SEES SEARCH FOR INDEPEN-
DENT IDENTITY ASSERTING ITSELF IN FOREIGN POLICY THAT
OFFICIALLY PUTS PROMOTION RELS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES,
IDENTIFICATION WITH "THIRD WORLD," REGIONAL COOPERATION,
AHEAD OF CONTINUED FRIENDLY RELS WITH US. KISSINGER

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